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THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLICS.

BY

MISS A. RUSSELL.

The Boers who people the Republics of South Africa which lie north of the British Colonies of the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, between the Orange and Zambesi rivers, are descended from the early Dutch colonists, and French Huguenots, who made the first civilized settlement at the Cape of Good Hope in the middle of the seventeenth century.

The value of the Cape of Good Hope as a key to the East made itself apparent to all the nations who traded with that quarter, and England developed a great desire to possess it. After various indirect ways of trying to attain that end, the British Government added it to their dominion in 1806 by conquest. The early history of the English administration here is one long story of misrule and incapacity, and in relation to the Dutch settlers a purely despotic establishment which at length drove them to desperation, and bred in them a determined and fanatical desire to escape from it. This led them to abandon the Cape Colony in large numbers during the years 1835 and 1836. They *trekked* northward and formed a republic in what is now known as the British Colony of Natal, and later on the republics which lie northward to the Limpopo River below the 22d degree of South latitude. The British Government raised no opposition to these migrations of

the Boers, but permitted them to lay the foundations of civilized states in these wild regions and establish their own republican form of government, and then rudely fell upon them, dispossessing them and repudiating their claim to independence.

This is the history of the relations which existed between the English and Boers for over half a century in South Africa, until at length the English Government seemed to awake to the fact that this continual aggressiveness levelled at the poverty-stricken and down-trodden Boers was a profitless persecution, inducing neither peace nor prosperity to any condition, and pointing to no ultimate conciliatory relations, and, in 1852, granted a charter of independence, which freed them from the allegiance it could not compel them to acknowledge. As the result of this act, the Boers found themselves in undisputed sway from the Drakenberg Mountains on the south to the illimitable stretches of country which lie north of the Limpopo and on to the Zambesi River. In the years which ensued they realized a "Promised Land," a genial soil which produced in lavishness for a minimum of effort, and their flocks and herds increased and multiplied past computation. Within recent years these republics have developed mineral wealth which renders them one vast field for enterprise, exploration and capital, and the attitude of the English Government has at different times given rise to complications which, but for the spirit of the Boers, would have made them once more subjects of the great empire, on whose dominions it is boasted the sun never sets.

The sympathies of American people should be drawn towards these South African Republics, whose history is

in some points not unlike their own, and my hope is that through the streams of commerce which must ultimately flow between these kindred countries, a knowledge will be gained in this country of the South African republics which will forever set the Boers at rest on the score of the safety of their independence. As the advance of interknowledge grows between nations so will the spirit of the strong to dominate the weak lessen in power, and a higher ambition replace it ; the ambition to compass the interests of mankind in perfect mutual relations, which is the only secure, as it is the highest type of bond between nations.

The history of the Boers and the struggles which they have waged with the English for independence, bring us to contemplate the work which their pioneering enterprise has accomplished in South Africa, opening it to civilization, which is gradually pushing its way to the very central regions of the continent.

A period of twenty years has elapsed since the first discovery of diamonds took place in West Griqualand, a province of the Orange Free State. During all that period the production of diamonds has given yearly a steady average, and recent statistics compute the total value in bulk to amount to £45,000,000. Within later years the production shows an increase, and the mines average an annual output that rather exceeds than otherwise £4,000,000 sterling.

The good old days have departed when each man had an allotment and mined for his own special behoof, while his wife or sisters took their share in the work by sorting, which was an employment to which they were admirably adapted, from the fact that it required more keenness and

mother wit than mere physical labor implies. Individual mining has been gradually pushed out of the competition, the claims by degrees drifting into the hands of companies, and the immense industry which diamond mining now forms in South Africa is directly controlled by one or two syndicates, and in these the Rothschilds hold magnificent interests. The camp of other years has made way for the pretentious architecture which wealth demands as representative of its power, and Kimberley, the capital of the diamond fields, is now a handsome city with a population of 20,000 souls. It is lighted by electricity, and tram cars intersect its streets, and generally its aspect is not widely different from that of a wealthy section of London.

Railway communication with the Cape of Good Hope, a distance of 647 miles, and a plentiful water supply from the Vaal River have greatly added to the comfort and cheapness of living there. The recent developments have quite changed the aspect of mining, the barriers which formerly divided the individual allotments have disappeared, and these have gradually merged until they form single mines of immense extent, the appearance of which is that of huge pits. The Kimberley mine would cover a space of eleven acres of ground. Looking at these pits from a distance, the intersection of ropes and chains which encompasses them throughout finds an apt illustration in a spider's web. By means of this complicated network the miners descend and buckets are worked backwards and forwards conveying the diamondiferous soil to the surface. The mines are worked to a depth of 500 feet, and from these extensions tunnelling is carried on in the same way as at coal mines, stretching under-

ground to a depth of 100 feet. The soil in which the diamonds are found is a blue clayey composition, and it exists frequently in the neighborhood of huge rocky boulders. The soil is taken from the mines, and at the surface tram cars convey it to open ground some distance away, and here hundreds of thousands of tons of it are spread out to dry, after which it is returned to the mines and washed.

The scientific theory with regard to the occurrence of diamonds in this flat and arid region is that in past ages of the world's unrecorded history there must have been an eruption far down in the depths of the earth, which threw up vast streams of boiling liquid mud from the craters below, and this ultimately resolved the carbon into the crystallized form which emphasizes the diamond. As a matter of fact this rests on no higher basis than supposition, and probably on that foundation also it is asserted that another half century will not see these mines exhausted, therefore the wealth which they represent is past the power of computation.

The spirit of rapacity which has characterized the action of the English Government in their dealings with South Africa led them to assert claims to the diamond fields. The justice of these claims has never been admitted, but their power to enforce them enabled them to secure possession, and this region is now a part of the British dominion. The extension of the diamond mining area in recent years has opened up some valuable mines in the Orange Free State territory, and on the banks of the Vaal River, a boundary which divides it from the Transvaal.

There are in existence old Portuguese maps of South

Africa dating back to the 16th century, in which the locality now known as the Kimberley diamond mines is indicated thus : Here be diamonds ! Just as accurately have these old Portuguese geographers indicated the gold bearing regions of South Eastern Africa, which are regarded as the discoveries of modern enterprise, and the fact is apparent that Portuguese exploration in Africa was of a much wider character than is generally known, and must to a great extent have guided the work of modern explorers.

For the past two centuries gold has been obtained from the natives on the East Coast in barter for the wares of civilization which they have learned to know a need of. Sofala and the countries which lie beyond are on the authority of trustworthy writers assumed to be the Ophir of the Bible, the region over which the Queen of Sheba wielded her sceptre, and from whence Solomon obtained the supplies of gold which added significantly to the splendor of his reign. The testimony of the old Portuguese writers is all in favor of this evidence, and added to this Josephus and the Koran can be quoted in support of it. In brief, the Portuguese writers compass these facts, that books exist among the inhabitants of this country which prove that Solomon obtained his gold here, that these mines bear traces of having been worked from the earliest ages ; at the period of the Portuguese conquest here they were open and working, and the reason of their abandonment of them is not clearly ascertained, but it is surmised that the discovery of the New World influenced it.

In modern times no two men have contributed more valuable geographical and scientific information on the

score of these shadowy regions than Thomas Baines and Carl Mauch, two intrepid travellers and dauntless explorers whose names are familiar to all South Africans. They penetrated into these unknown regions and gave them a definite place in geography, where before they had merely been characterized as imaginary deserts or jungles sacred to the habitation of the lion and the elephant. The scientific observations which these men made have led up to the extensive gold discoveries in South Africa which are now astonishing the world and which in the immense areas of country over which they spread have revealed the old workings which exist, and the remains of ruins of ancient buildings and palaces that proclaim that an advanced state of civilization prevailed which is utterly foreign to the present inhabitants.

The Portuguese had, at the date to which I have alluded, penetrated very far into Central Africa, and the natives on the Congo and the East Coast retain traces of a civilizing influence, and in the degree to which they cultivate, and in the desire which they evince for commercial intercourse they are far in advance of the tribes further south. The natives from Central Africa bring down to the East Coast ports gold, silver, malachite, ivory, indigo, wax, sago, and arrowroot. These industries owe their inception to the early influence of the Portuguese.

The first discoveries of gold in South Africa were made in the northeastern part of the Transvaal, in the district of Lydenburg, and they were of the alluvial order. These fields were worked from 1883 to 1887, and from available statistics it is computed that the amount of gold shipped through the ports of Cape Colony and Natal made a to-

tal value of £680,000, but I may affirm on reliable data that this represents only a small proportion of what was actually found. Diggers betray a close reserve on the subject of their finds, as there is nothing they dread more than a rush on what they regard as their peculiar preserves, and many of them quitted the picturesque solitude of this Lydenburg valley, carrying quietly away the snug little fortune their labors had amassed. As an instance of the simplicity of the mining operations I may state that my sister established herself there ; she made the first lady in the community, and lived for some years in a little canvas tent with a younger brother in the mountainous isolation. She possessed a claim, and personally supervised the labor of her natives. Her success was not immediate, but at different times she found gold in small quantities sufficient to pay her expenses and give her encouragement. At the end of two years her success was trumpeted forth from one end of South Africa to another, and she was accounted a great heroine in that some large and valuable nuggets were found in her claim ; the largest of these weighed 5 lbs., and it was exhibited at your Centennial exhibition with several other nuggets from her claim and together with about 50 pounds weight of gold found by Mr. Cameron—the whole quantity was exhibited by him. At this time my sister had united her fortunes to his.

The success of these mining operations in the north-eastern part of the Transvaal attracted the notice of the British Government. At this time the republic under the administration of an able and enlightened president, Mr. Burgers, was prosecuting progressive schemes that necessarily were adverse to the interests of the British

Colonies. These Colonies had hitherto monopolized the trade of the interior republics, which is a rich and valuable one, the exports consisting of wool, ivory, feathers, gold and diamonds, besides agricultural produce. Mr. Burgers conceived the idea of a trade which would be independent of British ports, and he entered into a treaty with the Portuguese Government for the construction of a railway from their port on Delagoa Bay, on the East Coast, to the capital of the Transvaal. Delagoa Bay is the finest harbor in South Africa and the gateway to the richest part of that country.

The prospect of this railway communication met with great disfavor from the British Colonies, diverting as it would the trade which constituted their chief prosperity. Forces were set in play with a view to obstruction, and finally resulted in the annexation of the Transvaal by the British Government in 1877. The justification for depriving the Boers of the independence guaranteed them in the charter of 1852 was set forth in a list of flimsy pretexts which were without one jot or tittle of truth. The Boers, it was argued, could not govern themselves, their native policy endangered the British Colonies.

The Boer Government, which embodies the principles of republicanism, offered securities and privileges amply illustrated in the fact that a considerable number of British subjects had settled under it, and with regard to their government and dealing with the natives, as compared with other records, it is exemplary; the proof of this finds expression in the fact, that they, a handful of Boer settlers, have lived in a very network of the most powerful of the South African native tribes on terms of

peace for over half a century. As contrasted with this the English have waged a succession of bloody and devastating wars which have attached an aspect of terror and savagery to South Africa that has greatly retarded an extended colonization of its shores. To summarize briefly the events which preceded the annexation of the Transvaal I will quote a short passage from a work of my own, "The Alien Transvaal," which illustrates the argument I have sustained. This work has been favorably commented on by the English press, as recording impartially the occurrences of the time.

"When Mr. Burgers was made President in 1872 of the Transvaal he tried to preach to the Boers that their safety lay in their aiding the development of their country's resources, thus increasing their revenues and establishing a strong government which would be its own security against the intrusive interference of other nations. Rewards were offered by Government for the discovery of payable gold fields, and this led to the opening up of Pilgrims' Rest in 1873. It lies about sixty miles to the northeast of Lydenburg. The success of a few diggers had the effect of creating some excitement in this direction and in less than two years a flourishing little township numbering a population of four to eight hundred souls had grown up in the picturesque isolation of the mountains. Stores were established, law agents prospered, a bank, temporary places of worship, a newspaper, all found new pastures for their extended efforts.

"The population at the gold fields consisted altogether of English people, and to meet this difficulty the Government had generously nominated their magistrate and

officials from their own countrymen. They were also granted the privilege of electing two members to represent them in the Volksraad, and indeed they were little less than constituted an independent little English Colony in a Dutch republic; but the very freedom and independence granted them, made them, instead of contented, ambitious and unmanageable. They promulgated a strong advocacy for British rule, even going so far as to ask England to take them under its protecting ægis, and while the republic was plunged in the distractions of a Kafir war, which there is very little doubt was incited by the element which desired its ruin, they abused the confidence the Government had placed in them by defying all authority and assuming an open disregard for all law."

President Burgers found himself harassed and beset on all sides, his schemes for the progress of the country obstructed by this petty but expensive warfare, and a plotting spirit of mischief at work among the English community, on whose intelligence he had relied for support in his schemes for the advancement of the country. At this juncture the British Commissioner stepped in, fresh from Downing Street, with instructions to annex the country. The Boers were not in a position financially or otherwise to take action against this fresh foe, and President Burgers counselled them strongly against attempting an armed resistance; he advised them rather to wait the result of an appeal to England's justice and to organize a deputation to represent that appeal. Mr. Burgers retired to poverty and obscurity utterly broken down by the ruin which had overtaken him, and he died broken-hearted. The Boers had so much faith in

the counsel he gave them, that they sent three successive deputations to England; these in turn urgently protested against the British Government retaining possession of the country, and argued that the facts of the case as represented, no longer gave them a justifiable excuse for doing so.

In the meantime the people of the country adopted an attitude of passive resistance, they refused to pay any taxes or in any way to acknowledge the alien government. In this manner two years passed away, when a change came over the attitude of both parties, the Boers, convinced that mere appeal to England was useless, had determined to take up arms to vindicate their rights, the British Government were becoming dissatisfied that no profits were forthcoming from their new investment. They established a military despotism over the Boers, and when the first attempt was made to enforce the payment of taxes by sending troops to seize on personal property, the first shots were fired which opened the Boer war. The Boers proved themselves organized and brave, and the disciplined and picked troops of the British Government sustained defeat after defeat at their hands, until a very panic seized them in the face of the Boer marksmen, whose deadly aim never failed of effect; the English officers were picked off almost at one fell swoop, their distinctive dress making them conspicuous targets.

The bravery of the Boers and the success which attended their arms attracted considerable attention to their cause, and universal sympathy was expressed for them by the nations of Europe.

The final act in this cruel struggle came when the

English were driven from a strong position they had taken up on the Majuba mountain, the general commanding the forces slain and his officers all taken prisoners by the Boers.

Mr. Gladstone at this time, 1880-1881, was at the head of the English Government. He realized that the action of the Boers was no mere discontent set on foot by agitators, but a widespread and deep-rooted antagonism to England's rule. He magnanimously admitted that that rule had been established through the misrepresentation of English agents, and acting on these convictions, he lost no time in performing an act of tardy justice. Majuba was succeeded by the negotiation of peace proposals, which resulted in the Transvaal being restored by England to the Boers. Once more their muskets were laid by, and they fell back to their contented pastoral lives. The English have attributed many ignoble characteristics to the Boers. I cannot give you a better idea of them than by quoting their action at one or two critical periods, which I think often gives the test of nations as well as of individuals. In 1879, when the English Government were at war with the Zulus, it would have been easy for the Boers to have allied themselves with the Zulus or to have taken up arms independently and ousted the British from the Transvaal, but they took no unfair opportunities. During the Boer war there was not an act of spoliation committed or a home desecrated, though thousands of English were at the mercy of the Boers. Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal, was entirely evacuated, the inhabitants having been ordered by the British administrator to take up their residence in the fort as a besieged

people. The Boers might have burned or pillaged the homes of these British residents, but not in one instance was an act of this nature committed. The moderation they exercised, the freedom from lawlessness and license which marked their action from the extreme north to Lang's Nek finds in history no parallel. They sought no petty individual revenge, but insisted upon their rights in a spirit of greatness that is worthy of the highest admiration. Distinguishing between might and right, England's short-sighted policy in South Africa has lost her prestige, possession, and will drain from her a large proportion of a magnificent commerce of which she might have had the entire control.

A general depression succeeded the subsidence of these two wars, the Zulu, and the Boer, which followed rapidly one on the other. They brought a glut of money into the country which was recklessly squandered. The influence which these wars exercised was to divert men from industrial pursuits and to pander to the depraved desire to amass wealth through any speculation, however illegitimate. The withdrawal of this species of excitement turned the attention of men's minds to other resources, and once more the reputed mineral riches of the East absorbed attention. A spirit of active prospecting was carried on northward from the old diggings at Pilgrims' Rest, and the de Kaap valley, which lies in a network of mountains, many of which are volcanic in origin, was the centre to which attraction converged. The attention of prospectors was directed to the search for alluvial gold, and only due to the fact that this—occurring only in patchy deposits—gave a very uncertain outlook to the establish-

ment of any permanent working, was notice bestowed upon the prospect of securing better results from the quartz reefs, in which the indications of gold had been pronounced by Mauch and Baines to give promise of great richness.

An immense amount of laborious work resulted in practical experiments, but the outcome gave generally encouragement. The discovery of a literal mountain of quartz which proved of extraordinary richness and which has been named "Sheba," laid the foundations which are now turning South Africa into one vast field of mining enterprise. Several hundred-weights of the quartz from the Sheba mine were sent to Messrs. Matthey, Johnson & Co. of London, and as the results of assays to which they subjected it, it yielded variously 47 oz., 20 oz. and 13 oz. to the ton. A positive craze seized upon South Africans, and the populations of whole towns set out for El Dorado.

The production of gold from the Sheba mine gives a monthly record of £50,000. Its capital is £680,000. Two hundred companies were soon floated on mines in the district of the Sheba. None of these have proved of equal richness to it, but the principal disadvantage which they have had to contend against has been bad management. Men have been appointed to the management of mines through the interest of promoters or directors who had not the most elementary knowledge of the science of mining.

As a profession, the future offers a great opening for the science of mining, and practical people are urging that schools for the study of mineralogy and the domestic economy of mining should be established. Barber-

ton was the first of about a dozen towns in South Africa which have sprung into existence through the development of mining enterprise ; it is situated on the slope of the de Kaap valley, in the north of the district of Lydenburg, a network of mountains varying in altitude from 3,000 to 8,000 feet above the level of the sea encircles it, and it lies stretched beneath one long continuation of gently undulating plain 20 miles long and 17 miles in breadth. It had long an uncanny reputation, and was known by the Boers as the valley of the shadow of death, and a kind of superstitious dread prevailed with regard to it. It has outlived this reputation, and its township has proved as healthy a place of residence as any in South Africa. The scenery in its vicinity is unrivalled for its grand and imposing character. It carries a lofty impressiveness with it that stirs the mind with an overpowering and reverential awe, and one seems to inhale deep draughts of a subdued delight, to stand, as it were, in the Holy of Holies, wherein to bring the thoughts of every day were profane. It seems as though here were a great unfelt presence, and in it we are unconsciously truer, nobler, reaching more nearly to the ideal which is the type of humanity, though as we race for the sordid things of earth, we mock it for a poet's fancy. In these grand and untenanted solitudes of nature there is a subtle sympathetic vibration that in its very essence utters a language to man. It is a solemn and a sweet conception, and the material element of humanity seems less potent in the thought that to man alone does nature speak, and to him unfold the great mysteries that are enshrouded with a history that excites all his faculties of curiosity and admiration, and

yet answers no word to the revelation he would fain know of their origin.

For a terse and telling description of the de Kaap valley I will quote to you the idea it awoke in the mind of one writer. He says : " Twenty-six miles from Barberton one can look down upon the whole of the de Kaap valley, a glorious sight at any time. I saw it at sunrise, 4,500 square miles of mountain, hill and valley, suffused with the rosy flush of dawn, a vast jumble of hills looking as though it had been the play-ground of the Titans." But I must leave Barberton, with its mountains of reefs and majestic natural features, and ask you to travel with me 300 miles in a southwesterly direction, and 30 miles south of Pretoria we find ourselves in another district of the Transvaal, where the physical character of the country bears no resemblance to what I have just described. It is an elevated plateau 6,000 feet above the level of the sea, stretching out in one continuation of undulating plains, diversified only by long lines of low hills, looking in the distance like crusty eruptions. This country is characterized as high veldt, that is high land, and had hitherto a value only as summer pasture for cattle. It is now the site of a handsome town, Johannesburg, and of one of the richest and most wonderful gold fields in the world. The town grew with such rapidity, and was built of such a substantial character that it has completely outstripped any of the experiences of California or Australia. In less than two years its population had reached the number of 50,000, and newer towns were laid out on its outskirts.

The character and magnitude of its mining enterprise are marvellous, five or six hundred mines are in the hands

respectively of companies. The aggregate production of gold in 1888, attended with all the difficulties of early development, was valued at £1,000,000 sterling. The shipments of gold are now averaging 30,000 ounces per month, but a vast increase of power is being added to the batteries, and this it is calculated will increase the production to three or four times this amount. The output of gold for the month of July, 36,000 ounces, was on exhibition at the Paris International Show. Vast shipments of gold mining machinery are imported to Africa from this country and Messrs. Fraser & Chalmers of Chicago are getting to be household words out there. The occurrence of gold at Johannesburg has excited considerable geological speculation, and its existence there is regarded as of a singular character. The reefs are not of the quartz formation as at Barberton, neither are they of the same difficult nature to deal with; they are a composition of pebbles, water-worn stones and quartz, forming a conglomerate which is cemented together by sand, and on exposure to air it crumbles to gravel; the gold is easily disintegrated. The Boers named the composition "bauket" on account of its resemblance to a sweetmeat which is somewhat in appearance like the almond rock, and the illustration is very apt.

Scientific theory assumes that the tract of country in which this gold formation exists, was in ancient times a sea beach, the gold was deposited in fine grains from the sea water, each layer being parted by a division of sand, in the ages which ensued the strata became consolidated and a mighty upheaval took place, tilting up the whole sea beach, so that the strata formerly lying in a

horizontal manner are now found perpendicular, extending downwards to depths not yet gauged. The evidence of the volcanic fire is patent in the conglomerate mixture.

There is practically no limit to the dimensions mining operations may assume in South Africa. There are yet illimitable stretches of country open to exploration in which the indications point to an inexhaustible supply of the precious metal, while silver, copper, lead, iron and coal bestrew the country. The coal formation is probably greater than exists in any part of the world. Geologists speak of the distribution of mineral wealth in South Africa as eccentric, because it occurs in unexpected places and under novel conditions. Mr. Penning, a geologist of some eminence, who has devoted many years to scientific observations in South Africa, believes that very large beds of gold will be found; he assumes this from a theory which his experiences have led him to formulate, but its truth remains for actual demonstration. As I have stated, the first discoveries of gold were made in the eastern division of the Transvaal; 300 miles southwest of this occurs the gold formation, which makes Johannesburg; 70 miles south of this a continuation of this formation is found extending beyond the Vaal River, and it is now practically demonstrated that a great belt of gold-bearing country stretches across the Continent from Delagoa Bay on the east, to Walfisch Bay on the west. The development of so vast a mining industry in South Africa has contributed to the prosperity of every section of the country; a capital of £20,000,000 is now invested in mining in the Transvaal, a fact which gives it a position of foremost impor-

tance. With a large surplus revenue in its coffers it is prosecuting public works that will soon bring it into closer contact with the outer civilized world. The first section of the railway from Delagoa Bay is completed, and though British interests have brought a force of influences towards obstructing it, the tide of circumstances is too powerful in its favor, and it will draw the bulk of the trade from the republics. All religious denominations have free scope in the Transvaal, and educational advantages will enter into all the lives of the Boers of the rising generation. Government schools are established in all the towns; the Volksraad recently voted £20,000 for the purpose of erecting a college; £100 a year is granted by Government to any English private school in which Dutch is included in the curriculum, and this interchange of language is making its influence felt towards removing the intolerance and prejudice with which English and Boers regard one another. Looking back a few years at the Boers, living in their isolated and pastoral simplicity, cut off from all advantages of education and civilization, it seems almost impossible to realize the rapidity with which changes come about, and that a few years more will rank them in the confraternity of nations. In this lies the fruition of the hope which animated the early pioneers of 1688, whose spirit has filtered through the successive generations, leading them to endure untold suffering in preference to the sacrifice of their inborn independence. The reflection is not without a lesson, and it embodies the principle of a great purpose being the ultimate destiny of humanity.

Mr. Kruger is serving his second term of office as

president since the restoration of the Transvaal to the Boers. He is pure and simple a son of the soil, his parents being of the pioneers who abandoned the Cape Colony in 1835. He is a man of few educational advantages, as we understand them, but circumstances have bred in him a strong capacity for government. He has been compared in character to the old Scotch Covenanters who went about with the Bible in one hand and the sword in the other. He is a man of severely religious principles and is one of a sect called Doppers, a strict body of Dutch Protestants, peculiar in dress, manners and way of living; they correspond to the Puritans. Among the Boers, whose entire confidence he possesses, Mr. Kruger is known as "Oom Paul," Uncle Paul. At the time of the British occupation of the Transvaal he made two journeys to England to induce that government to undo the act of annexation, and he was the central figure in the Boer war and in the conduct of the peace negotiations.

He is regarded by outsiders as a man of strict integrity and strong common sense, and he has shown peculiar ability by the way he has adapted his rule to newer conditions; he has suddenly been called upon to regulate the affairs of an alien population of adverse sympathies and ambitions, 50,000 English who have flocked into the Transvaal owing to the recent discoveries of gold. He has displayed a peculiar tact in identifying his government with their interests, but he shows a firm disposition to resist the spirit that worked to the overthrow of his predecessor, President Burgers, though at times it does not leave him without anxiety.

The native tribes of South Africa are numerous.

Their government is chiefly of the patriarchal order. The stringency of their laws is a necessity, death is the punishment for infringement of these—for which their state can provide no prisons.

The morality of natives and the peaceful relations of domestic life find no parallel in civilization. Some of their customs are analogous to the Jewish, and coming to a later date others are not unlike what were common among the ancient Highland clans, and their superstitions, beliefs and practices in witchcraft are like those current in England in the time of James I.

The savagery of the natives is served up to excite our horror, and yet the refined cruelties of civilization would seek in vain for a counterpart amongst them. Human nature is the same in every condition and the brutal element is no less apparent in the state called civilization as contrasted with barbarism. The general disposition of the natives is peaceable. A simple diet and constant out-door life give them a vigor of frame and an exuberance of animal spirit that constitutes a great measure of happiness. Their reputed savagery consists to a great extent of the defense of their rights, which in the presence of Europeans they dread are assailed.

Their future opens a wide field for genuine philanthropy, and the first inception of civilization should be based on an industrial system. The less of the shadowy and vague they are taught the better, its tendency is to demoralize them, for like children, and men too, they are more susceptible to example than precept.